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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY USSR (Krasnodar Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 8 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Petroleum Refinery in Krasnodar

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INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Location

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The refinery is on the right bank of the Kuban river bend, 3 km west of Krasnodar (45°02'N/39°00'E), along the Novorossisk (44°43'N/37°47'E) - Krasnodar railroad line. It covers an area of about 1,000 x 2,000 meters, with from 1,000 x 500 to 1,200 x 600 meters occupied by the old installation and the remaining area by the newly constructed installations. About 70 percent of the entire area is built up.

2. History

The old refinery was mostly destroyed during the war; having been temporarily put into operation, it was again demolished by the retreating German troops. Reconstruction was started in 1943 and had progressed sufficiently in 1945 so that production could be resumed. Except for some minor damage, the refinery had been rebuilt almost to its previous extent by the end of 1948.

The Five-Year-Plan provided for a considerable enlargement of the refinery, to be completed in 1950. The main construction of new installations started in January 1948. The new refinery section was designated Plant No 233 and sometimes "Refinery Krasnodar Oblast".

3. Installations

- a. The following installations had been completed by the end of 1948 in the area added:

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Laboratory, pump station, 2 stills (30 x 20 meters and 25 to 30 meters high), 3 tube boilers (about 40 meters high, with measuring instruments and compressors), 10 large oil storage tanks (20 to 25 meters in diameter) and about 50 small tanks (4 to 10 meters in diameter).

b. The following installations had been completed by the end of the period covered by report (by mid-1949):

A third battery of stills (about 15 meters high), 2 distilling sets with fractionating towers, a cracking unit of 14 tube boilers (about 10 meters high), a gasoline distillation unit, a residue-processing unit, a boiler house, a transformer station, 10 large and numerous small oil storage tanks. The crude oil storage tanks (each 5 to 15 meters high and 16 to 20 meters in diameter) in the new refinery section covered an area of about 200 x 250 meters.

4. Transportation

a. There were also railroad spurs in the new refinery section. They led to a large loading ramp and to 12 installations for draining and filling tank cars.

b. The new refinery was connected with the old refinery by a 30 to 40-cm diameter pipe line, and thus with the piping system of the Sipsa oil field near Ilkaya (44°51'N/38°34'E).

c. A pump station for the oil main was near the refinery area.

5. Production

While the old refinery chiefly produced gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil (residue) and small quantities of lubricants, the new refinery was scheduled to produce mainly gasoline of various octane ratings, particularly high-octane aviation gasoline.

Those employed in the construction of the new refinery frequently heard the plant referred to as "hydrogenation plant", but never learned whether this designation was correct. However, some PWs witnessed the unloading in the refinery area of machinery and equipment dismantled in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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Comment:

a. The old refinery in Krasnodar was previously designated "Kubanol". Having been considerably extended in 1938, the refinery then had an annual output of about 800,000 tons at that time. A large percentage of the gasoline distilled in the plant was basic aviation gasoline.

b. It is considered probable, therefore, that the new cracking unit, built in connection with the two new distillation units, is a catalytic cracking unit or even a hydrogenation unit.

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Both units would be appropriate for the distillation of iso-octane or other aviation fuels with an octane rating higher than 90. The difference between a catalytic cracking unit and a high-pressure hydrogenation unit does not lie in the processing (cracking of low-grade hydrocarbon and refining by agglomeration of additional hydrogen atoms under pressure and by means of a catalyzer), but in the basic material (heavy (residue) oil for the catalytic cracking process; tars or coal mash for hydrogenation).

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Comment: This report partially answers the requests for additional information contained in [REDACTED]. Hence reference is made to it even though this information does not come from the source of the referenced report.

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